



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Gabon

Calm Returns After Violent Demonstrations

*AB2101192690 Dakar PANA in French 1325 GMT
21 Jan 90*

[Text] Libreville, 21 Jan (AGP-GAB/PANA)—“The decision on the departure of the University chancellor is in the hands of the appropriate authorities,” Jules Bourdes Ogouliguende, the Gabonese minister of state in charge of higher education, stated during discussions with the Gabonese press following the student demonstrations. “Despite these incidents, the students are imposing some demands, as if the state or the administration had no texts to go by,” he said on Friday evening in Libreville in reply to the latest demands of the students of the Omar Bongo University (UOB), who are seeking the dismissal of the chancellor for allowing the bloody repression of the strike they began last Tuesday [16 January].

The minister said: “The police had the right to enter the campus,” stressing that “this is provided for by Article 9 of Ordinance 30/71 of 29 April 1971 on the creation and organization of Omar Bongo University, entitled University franchises.” This ordinance authorizes the police to maintain order at the university and to protect individuals and property, he observed. Mr Ogouliguende, however, deplored the incidents, acknowledging that certain students were chased into their rooms and that there was heavy damage.

He said classes would resume only when the insecurity problem on campus has been resolved and after the damage in the classrooms and dormitories has been repaired. The Gabonese minister discussed “manipulation” by officials of the Social Services of the university and the Youth Union of the Gabonese Democratic Party (UJPDG), saying, “if they had accomplished their mission things would not have gotten so serious.”

He explained that the Social Services, as a moral entity, should be responsible for these events and bear the consequences. Speaking about the original demands by the students, Mr Ogouliguende admitted that they were pertinent, saying that he had already given them convincing answers.

The student strike began with a protest against the lack of competent lecturers and teaching equipment at the UOB. Calm progressively returned to Libreville after the Gabonese Government decided to ban on Friday [19 January] evening “all meetings” in the streets, to reinforce the checking and verification of identities, and to

ask the people to stay at home after 1900, it was stated this morning in the Gabonese capital.

After 3 days of demonstrations, which were started by UOB students, who were joined by high school students, the unemployed, and clandestine immigrants, some districts and streets in Libreville looked like a vast battlefield, and the victims are the Syrian and Lebanese traders who value the labor of Equatorial Guineans because they accept such low wages.

On the night of 19 January, the Gabonese police, reinforced by members of the National Gendarmerie “were mopping up” the last pockets of resistance of “plunderers” in the “PK 5,” Rio, and Kinguele areas, which are the bustling working-class districts of the capital. But shortages of certain essential commodities were noted in some calm areas because of the closure or total destruction of stalls, shops, and shopping centers.

Urban transportation, which has been paralyzed since 18 January, slowly resumed normal service this morning, but all matches of the national soccer championship, scheduled for this weekend, have been postponed indefinitely, pending the return of total calm to Libreville.

Sao Tome and Principe

President Receives CPSU Delegation 17 Jan

*AB1901163490 Paris AFP in French 1723 GMT
18 Jan 90*

[Text] Sao Tome, 18 Jan (AFP)—Yesterday evening, Sao Tomean President Manuel Pinto da Costa received a CPSU delegation led by Gennadiy Konsorikov [name as received] an official source has announced. The discussions reportedly centered on the ways and means to increase bilateral cooperation in the sectors of the army and training of personnel as well as on various problems facing the African Continent, the same source states.

The CPSU also held many working sessions with the delegation of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe led by Flavio Costa, general secretary of the party. The Sao Tome and Principe authorities have decided to end the only-party system as of this year and to authorize the creation of many parties in the country, it is recalled.

During its 1-week visit, the Soviet delegation was also received by Alda do Espirito Santo, speaker of the National Assembly, and inspected various agricultural projects implemented in the interior of the country. It left Sao Tome today for Moscow.

Ethiopia

Rebels Make Victory Claims in Welo Fighting

EA2001154490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Ethiopia in Amharic 0400 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The heroic People's Army of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF], supported by mass participation, has put 7,181 Dergue soldiers out of action in a partial offensive carried on the Kuta Ber and Hayk fronts. Heavy, medium, and light weapons have also become the property of the EPRDF combatants.

The offensive carried out at Kuta Ber and Hayk by the heroic EPRDF People's Army, supported by the enthusiastic masses, has demoralized the Dergue, which has put one of its legs in the grave in its futile attempt to save face.

In the offensive, which took place 14-19 January, the heroic EPRDF People's Army put 7,181 enemy soldiers out of action; among these, 2,637 soldiers were killed; 4,274, including the head of the 17th Army Division's political department, were wounded; and (?270) others were captured.

In its partial offensive the EPRDF People's Army also inflicted heavy material losses on the anti-people Dergue, which does not shrink from the racist mobilization of people or the use of oppressed soldiers as cannon fodder.

In this offensive our People's Army has captured 2 tanks, 6 heavy weapons, 42 medium guns, 77 Kalashnikov assault rifles, 6 radio communication sets and a large quantity of ammunition and hand grenades.

Three tanks and a vehicle carrying one ZU-23 were also burned out in the fighting. These three enemy tanks were burned by the enemy itself when it was fleeing from Kuta Ber Town, as it was not possible for the frightened enemy soldiers to take them with them. [passage omitted]

Kenya

Ethiopian Officials Arrive for Border Talks

EA2101204090 Nairobi KNA in English 1721 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Nairobi, 21 Jan (KNA)—Kenya and Ethiopian administrators in area bordering the two countries will hold a four-day meeting in Eldoret Town from tomorrow (Monday). This will be the 15th ordinary meeting of Ethiopia-Kenya Border administrators and commissioners.

The Ethiopian Government delegation to the meeting arrived in Nairobi today, led by Mr. Tefera Endlew, chairman, executive committee of the administrative region of Southern Omo.

The Ethiopian side at the meeting consists of 29 officials. The meeting will be chaired by the Rift Valley provincial commissioner Mr. Mohamed Yusuf Haji.

The Ethiopian delegates were met at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by the Rift Valley PC [Provincial Commissioner], Mr. Haji, the Nairobi PC, Mr. Fred Waiganjo, the ambassador of Kenya, to Ethiopia Mr. Mude Dae Mude, the ambassador of Ethiopia to Kenya Mr. Legesse Wolde-Mariam and senior officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Welcoming the delegation before it left for Eldoret, Mr. Haji said the border administrators should maintain the brotherly relations for the prosperity of the two countries. The PC added that the relationship between Kenya and Ethiopia was historic and had lasted many years.

The leader of the Ethiopian delegation noted that the current border meeting would further strengthen the friendly relations that exist between the two countries.

Border Talks Open 22 Jan

EA2201185590 Nairobi KNA in English 1255 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Eldoret, 22 January—A minister of state in the office of the president, Mr. Burundi Nabwera, today called for a rigorous observation of official customs and immigration policies along Kenya's borders with her neighbours in order to facilitate smooth legal movement of people and goods. Mr. Nabwera urged administrators in border regions to enhance security at the grass-root levels to curb local problems, like cattle rustling and tribal clashes, likely to disrupt the prevailing peace and development tempo.

The minister, who is in charge of provincial administration, was officially opening the 15th session of the joint Kenya-Ethiopia border [words indistinct] hotel today. The meeting is scheduled to end on January 26.

He congratulated administrators from both countries for upholding peace and security along their common border, in support of Ethiopia leader Mengistu Haile Mariam and President Moi's policies of brotherly fraternal relations, which have paved the way for effective communication and increased trade contacts.

Mr. Nabwera said meetings held at [word indistinct] levels since the 14th session in November 1988 at Dirre Dawa in Ethiopia have upheld joint policies and resolutions passed at earlier (?Ministerial) contacts, and helped improve the welfare of people living along the Kenya-Ethiopia border.

The minister said although smuggling along border was common worldwide, Kenyan and Ethiopian security personnel had a task to curb the malpractice and streamline orderly exchange of goods through legal trade practices.

The 29-strong Ethiopia delegation to the talks is led by Comrade Tefera Endalew, who is the chief administrator

of South Omo region, while the Kenyans are led by the Rift Valley provincial commissioner, Mr Mohammed Yusuf Haji.

Also present during the opening session were the Uasin Gishu District commissioner Mr Ishmael Chelang'a, Eldoret Mayor Hsein Kitur, Assistant Minister Reuben Chesire and Eldoret East MP [member of parliament] Mr Francis Tarar.

Administrator Praises Ties

EA2201190190 Nairobi KNA in English 1230 GMT
22 Jan 90

[Text] Eldoret, 22 January— The chief administrator of South Omo region in Ethiopia, Comrade Tefera Endalew, said today the successful demarcation of boundaries between Kenya and Ethiopia has spared the two countries border disputes, which were currently the source of misunderstanding between some African states.

Comrade Endalew, leading the Ethiopian delegation to the 15th ordinary meeting of the Ethiopian-Kenyan border administrators/commissioners committee meeting, which opened in Eldoret today, praised both governments for the establishment of different bilateral institutions which were instrumental in fostering exemplary good-neighbourliness, founded on mutual respect, confidence and common interest during the past 20 years.

He announced that Ethiopia was engaged in a country-wide exercise to restructure the regional administrative organisation, following a decision by the national 'Shengo', parliament. He said the former Sidamo and Gamu Gafa Provinces which bordered Kenya have been changed to Borena and South Omo, respectively.

Comrade Endalew said the main reason for the on-going restructuring exercise was to enhance economic development, increase participation of citizens in national development, as well as ensure the equality of different nationalities in Ethiopia. He however assured Kenyans that the administrative changes would by no means impede the smooth functioning of bilateral regular contacts at ministerial, diplomatic and local authority, in order [word indistinct] since Ethiopia was keen for continued growth of existing relations between the two countries.

Comrade Endalew reiterated that Kenya and Ethiopia shared historical, cultural, blood relations as geographical proximity, which have seen to the determination by both governments to establish and maintain excellent consultative channels of contact on a wide range of issues. He promised that his country attached great importance to the on-going deliberations and would carry out full implementation of all decisions jointly adopted at the Eldoret meeting.

Somalia

President Appoints Samantar Prime Minister

EA2201193190 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1700 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] A report released by the office of Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] president, has disclosed that the president has appointed the prime minister for the SDR.

After the president had considered Article 82, Paragraph 1, S, and Paragraph 2 of the SDR Constitution, after he had considered Article 86 of the SDR Constitution, and Law Number 14 decreed on 3 June 1962, and the amendments connected with the system of government, he issued the following decree: Comrade Mohamed Ali Samantar has been appointed prime minister of the SDR Cabinet. The report adds that the new prime minister will soon establish the membership of the SDR Cabinet.

[Paris AFP in English at 1650 GMT on 22 January in a Mogadishu-dated item on President Siad Barre's announcement reports the following: "President Siad Barre dissolved his entire cabinet January 9, accusing them of being incapable of properly handling the political, economic and social problems facing the country. All the former ministers are being held under house arrest while their assistant ministers are running day-to-day events, according to diplomatic sources in the region."

"The situation in the capital is described as extremely tense with reports of frequent troop movements and constant identity checks by the Red Berets of the Presidential Guard."

Rebels Report Ship Seized, Troops Killed

EA2101194890 (Clandestine) Radio of the Somali
National Movement in Somali 1500 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Reports received from the Central High Command of the Somali National Movement (SNM) forces say that the SNM Coast Guard captured a cargo ship belonging to the Afweyneh [nickname for President Mohamed Siad Barre, meaning Big Mouth] regime in the Red Sea waters of the country.

The ship [words indistinct] which was captured on 15 January 1990, is now in the hands of the SNM Coast Guard. The report adds that the forces loyal to the satanic regime of Mogadishu carried out air raids on the SNM Coast Guard, who were holding the ship. The loyalist troops of the Mogadishu regime deployed two MiG-19 fighter planes to attack the SNM base. The gallant fighters of the SNM inflicted heavy casualties on the attacking planes by shooting down one of the MiG-19 fighter planes.

Our reporter with the SNM fighters at the battle front [words indistinct], Comrade Abd al-Nasir Umar Hasan told our reporter that on 18 January, 1990, SNM fighters

were engaged in fierce fighting with the loyalist troops of the Mogadishu regime on the outskirts of Berbera. [Words indistinct], the enemy suffered 11 soldiers—one of them an officer—killed, and 15 others wounded. The enemy also lost one Fiat truck, which was burned out.

The commander of the 17th base of the SNM, Comrade Abd-al-Nasir, adds that on 16 January, 1990, SNM fighters attacked the loyalist troops of the satanic regime of Siad Barre. The engagement, which took place at (Hantaloo) Village, only a few kilometres from Shiikh Town, resulted in enemy losses of men and materiel. The enemy suffered over 15 soldiers killed and 28 others wounded.

Uganda

Agreement Reached With Sudan on Noninterference

EA2001161390 Kampala Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Excerpts] President Yoweri Museveni is back home from Djibouti, where he attended the IGADD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development] summit conference and also paid a 2-day official visit to the Republic of Djibouti. [passage omitted]

Addressing a press conference immediately on his arrival, President Museveni described Djibouti as a country that has an important sea route that would easily enhance trade relations with Uganda. He added that his interest is for Uganda to supply the ships that dock in Djibouti with various horticultural products which Uganda has in great numbers. He went on to say that Djibouti, being near the Middle East, could help Uganda to penetrate potential markets in the region. At this juncture, he called for an adoption of an aggressive

policy of marketing our products, adding that organizations like the produce marketing board will not cope with the volume of production in the country. He said that it is precisely for this reason that the government is encouraging private exporters as well as foreign companies able to buy and export our products.

President Museveni also briefed the newsmen that while in Djibouti he held discussions with the Sudanese leader, General al-Bashir, aiming at putting everything in perspective. He said that they reaffirmed the OAU principles of non-interference in the internal affairs, and also that the two countries agreed not to keep enemies at their common border. Mr Museveni said that Sudan had now agreed to take up his earlier suggestion of setting up security monitoring units near the border. He made it categorically clear that he is more concerned with Uganda's bilateral relations with Sudan than anything else. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on arrests in the Army, President Museveni clarified that they involved two categories. The first were some of those absorbed from other fighting groups who were cherishing the idea of opposing the government from within and were actually collaborating with rebels, and the second group were the NRA [National Resistance Army], who got involved into businesses and corruption. He described the action taken against such elements as being part of the digestive process. Mr Museveni told the journalists that the burning of Republic House was not accidental, but it is neither the immediate cause of the arrests.

President Museveni again touched on the economic performance of Uganda under the NRM [National Resistance Movement] and said that the country is one of the five African countries that have achieved a growth rate of over 5 percent in the economy. He attributed this achievement to the correctness of the policy adopted by the NRM government. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister: Mandela Release 'High on Agenda'

AB2301153890 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT
23 Jan 90

[Text] Johannesburg, Jan 23 (AFP)—South African justice minister Kobie Coetsee said that freedom for black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela is "high on the agenda" in an interview published here Tuesday.

Mr Coetsee indicated that Mr. Mandela's recent statements that he was facilitating potential talks between the African National Congress (ANC) and the government was a "giant step," according to the ruling national party's paper, DIE NASIONALIS. It is "reasonable to assume" that following the release last October of seven other ANC veterans, including former Secretary-General Walter Sisulu, the release of Mr. Mandela is "high on the agenda," Mr. Coetsee said.

The minister, who has frequently visited Mr. Mandela at his prison house in Paarl near Cape Town, added: "The question is no longer whether he should be released, but when and under what circumstances."

"Earlier conditions for his release no longer apply or have elapsed," Mr Coetsee said. The Pretoria government had previously insisted that Mr. Mandela and other political prisoners publicly condemn the use of violence.

The authorities later dropped this demand, instead calling on Mr. Mandela to commit himself to working for "peaceful development" in South Africa.

Mr Mandela did so in a statement last July, a week after meeting Pieter W. Botha, predecessor of the current more reform-minded President Frederik de Klerk.

Mr Coetsee described that statement as "new circumstances surrounding his (Mr. Mandela's) position," adding that "it is through this statement that the ANC strategy of violence has begun to fade into the background."

The interview with Mr. Coetsee, published on the eve of the first Cabinet meeting of the year in Cape Town, is seen as confirmation of persistent reports that Mr. Mandela will be freed very soon.

After visiting her husband on January 8, Winnie Mandela had said that his release was no longer a matter of months.

Police Deploy Razor Wire in Cape Demonstration

MB2301102190 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1017 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Cape Town Jan 23 SAPA—Police on Tuesday [23 January] deployed razor wire in central Cape Town as thousands of scholars gathered at St George's Cathedral in a protest organised by the National Education Crisis Committee [NECC].

By midday, an estimated, 4,000 scholars had gathered either inside the cathedral hall, where they were addressed by speakers including members of the local UDF [United Democratic Front] executive, or in the cathedral grounds, where they sang, danced and waved a large ANC [African National Congress] flag.

Many of them came to the venue dancing and singing in groups several hundred strong up the middle of Adderley Street.

Participants said they understood organisers had not applied for permission to hold the meeting. They said they planned to march on the Department of Education and Training [DET] offices on the foreshore here to present a list of demands.

Several large police trucks were stationed in the vicinity, as was a mobile water cannon.

About 100m of razor wire was deployed along Queen Victoria Street, on the north side of the cathedral, from the back of a truck at 11.50, a move met with jeers and shouts from the pupils.

A group of senior police officers, including a colonel, monitored events and were seen talking to rally marshals who wore red armbands.

A speaker in the packed cathedral hall said among the demands which would be presented to the DET were the abolition of school fees, the promotion of non-racial sport, the building of more schools, that schools be opened to all races and "that our education system should be one for all".

'Drastic' Defense Force Cuts Detailed

MB1901165790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1545 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Pretoria Jan 19 SAPA—Drastic measures to prune the size of the South African Defence Force [SADF] in accordance with State President F.W. de Klerk's reform initiatives were announced at Voortrekkerhoogte on Friday [19 January] by the acting chief of the SADF, Lt-Gen Kat Liebenberg.

SAAF [South African Air Force] aircraft would be withdrawn from service and sold, SADF units would be disbanded, SADF members retrenched and far-reaching restructuring would be effected to make the SADF "smaller and more cost-effective", he told military correspondents at a briefing.

Gen Liebenberg also said major weapon and equipment projects would be cancelled, but he gave the assurance that the adjustments would "not affect the operational capability or preparedness of the Defence Force".

The rationalisation drive would see:

- The withdrawal and sale of give types of aircraft;
- The cancellation of a range of capital projects;
- The scaling down of the Army's group HQ;

- The disbandment of SADF units and SAAF squadrons;
- “Drastic curtailments” in running costs;
- The “considerable” scaling down of the naval bases at Simon's Town and Walvis Bay; and
- The disbandment of Naval Command West at Silvermine and Naval Command East in Durban.

Gen Liebenberg said the adjustments, approved by the minister of defence, Gen Magnus Malan, would enable the SADF to “make its contribution to the reduction of state expenditure in the interests of South Africa and all its people”.

About 2,000 members of the Navy, both civilian and uniformed personnel of all ranks, would be retrenched or retired, the chief of the Navy, Vice Admiral Dries Putter, announced.

This would constitute 15.6 per cent of Navy personnel, national servicemen included.

It appeared the Army would need to lay off only 22 labourers at a horse breeding farm at De Aar.

The chief of the Air Force, Lieut-Gen Jan van Loggerenberg, said because the Air Force was “terribly undermanned,” it would be able to absorb most members of disbanded squadrons and units.

The aircraft to be withdrawn from service would be the Canberras, the Super Frelon helicopters, the Westland Wasp helicopters, the Kudus and the Albatrosses.

The SAAF's Southern Air Command and Western Air Commands were being scaled down, he said.

Gen Liebenberg said he was not in a position to give comprehensive figures regarding the number of personnel being retrenched, or exact details on the reduction of the defence budget.

He could not discuss the budget until it had been approved by Parliament.

Military analysts said if one took into account the effect of the shortened national service period, the SADF may be left with about 30 percent to 40 percent less “boots on the grounds” than before.

At the same briefing, ARMSCOR [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] announced its group staff complement would be cut by a further 2,100 employees—about 10 per cent—as part of its rationalisation programme this year.

This would be achieved though a combination of natural attrition, retirements on pension and lay-offs.

ARMSCOR spokesman Tielman de Waal said he feared the rationalisation process would lead to a number of bankruptcies among ARMSCOR's suppliers.

ARMSCOR said its design, manufacturing and marketing capabilities could now be used to the advantage of other sectors of industry.

Companies in the armaments industry would increasingly diversify to the commercial sector, with the emphasis on “replacing imports and creating new products for export”.

Some companies in the armaments industry were already performing well in this field, while most of the others had the potential to do so.

ARMSCOR however said there was no possibility of the arms boycott against South Africa being lifted, and South Africa therefore had to continue to strive for self-sufficiency in armaments.

“The primary mission of the armaments industry therefore remains unchanged,” ARMSCOR said.

ARMSCOR was encouraged by the successes being achieved in arms exports despite strong competition.

“The South African armaments industry had already built up a reputation as a reliable supplier on the world market, and repeat orders are beginning to be realised.”

It was not envisaged that more ARMSCOR facilities would be closed down, but a high priority was being given to the continued improvement of productivity.

The four arms of the SADF will be pruned as follows:

The Army:

There will be “drastic” curtailments in running costs, and 11 major weapons and equipment projects have been cancelled.

Some 49 further projects will either be reduced or delayed.

Its group HQ will be scaled down, the horse breeding farm at De Aar will be closed down, and a thorough investigation into the future role and tasks of the SA Army Women's College at George will be made. It will however continue to exist as a training institution for women in the army.

The Air Force:

Five type of aircraft will be scrapped, units will be disbanded or scaled down, equipment will be withdrawn, “quite a lot of” projects cancelled, the personnel composition of the SAAF will be changed, and squadrons will be disbanded or moved.

AFB PE [Air Force base Port Elizabeth] will be disbanded. Squadron 16 (Alouette helicopters), 12 (Canberras), 25 (Dakotas), and 27 (Albatrosses) will be disbanded and their personnel transferred.

35 Squadron (Dakotas) will however continue to exercise maritime control, Gen van Loggerenberg said.

Two air commando squadrons (107 AFB Hoedspruit and 114 AFB Swartkop) will disband, and their members will be transferred.

Southern and Western Air Commands are being scaled down.

The navy:

Admiral Putter said no ships would be withdrawn from service, but three capital projects had been cancelled.

"Two guidelines followed throughout were that the sea-going fighting ability of the Navy must not be impaired but, where possible improved, and training must enjoy a high priority to enable the navy to maintain a high level of operational readiness," he said.

The marine branch will however be disbanded and its bases at Richard's Bay, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town closed down.

The naval bases at Walvis Bay and Simon's Town will be scaled down.

Naval Commands West and East at respectively Silvermine and Durban will be disbanded, and their functions taken over by naval HQ in Pretoria or delegated to the commanding officers concerned.

All flotillas will now fall under direct control of the chief of the Navy.

Units that will be scaled down include Simon's Town naval dockyard, armaments depot and depot support group, Durban's naval dockyard, armaments depot and stores depot.

Organisational changes will be made at SAS [expansion unknown] Wingfield, the stores depot, and other units there.

About 2,000 members of the Navy will be retrenched or retired.

The SA medical service:

The surgeon-general of the SA medical service, Lieut-Gen Niel Knobel, said the service had reviewed certain aspects in order to become more cost effective and professional.

- No "step-outs" (formal uniforms) will be issued in future to national servicemen;
- 12, 13 and 15 Medical Supply Depots are being closed;
- Computer systems and centres are being consolidated;
- Medicines are being rationalised and standardised; and
- Sick bay and clinics are being consolidated and scaled down in accordance with the scaling down of the other arms of the SADF.

Country's Socialism Must Wait on Democratic Change

PM1701162590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
13 Jan 90 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report on interview with Joe Slovo, general secretary of the South African Communist Party and member of South Africa's African National Congress National Executive Committee, by TASS correspondent Vladimir Zbaratskiy in Lusaka: "The Main Task"—date of interview not given]

[Text] Lusaka, 12 Jan—The main task of the South African Communist Party [SACP] is to create conditions in South Africa for shaping nonracial democracy and attracting broad strata of the population to its side, Joe Slovo, general secretary of the SACP and member of South Africa's African National Congress [ANC] National Executive Committee, has stated here.

The ANC and SACP have always been committed to the principles of eliminating apartheid by peaceful means, he noted in an interview with TASS correspondent Vladimir Zbaratskiy. The idea of attaining this objective by force of arms has been and remains alien to us. This strategy was forced on the fighters against racism, who took this path when no other opportunities were left to eliminate apartheid and build democracy in South Africa by peaceful means. Repressions continue in the country, the emergency situation has not been repealed to this day, thousands of people including ANC leader Nelson Mandela are in prison for their political beliefs, and all antiracist organizations are banned. So far there has been no opportunity to conduct a struggle using political methods alone—they have to be coupled with armed methods.

The ANC and SACP declare their readiness to take the path of talks with the Republic of South Africa Government, but their objective must be defined beforehand, Joe Slovo said. The main topic of the dialogue must be the question of building a free, nonracial, democratic society in South Africa. If the country's leadership is prepared for such a dialogue, we are in favor of talks. Facts testify, however, that President Frederik de Klerk's government is not prepared for this.

The working class has been and remains the most organized force in South Africa, the vanguard of the struggle against apartheid and for the building of a society of justice and equality, the SACP leader emphasized. In our opinion, the question of building socialism in South Africa cannot be raised immediately following the destruction of apartheid. We must wage a constant struggle for people's minds and try to convince them of the socialist system's advantages. The SACP is not abandoning its objective of creating conditions for the building of socialism in the country—but it believes that it is primarily necessary to affirm in people's minds an awareness of its advantages over other systems. If a genuine democratic society were to be created in South Africa, a gradual movement toward socialism would be inevitable.

Joe Slovo pointed out the tremendous role played by the USSR in settling the situation in South Africa. He stressed that in the eyes of millions of progressively minded inhabitants of South Africa, the Soviet Union is a symbol of struggle against oppression, racial hatred, and injustice for genuine democracy and equality.

In connection with events in East Europe, Joe Slovo said that the changes now taking place there give rise to conjectures that socialism has supposedly failed to prove its worth, that it is doomed, and that the Marxist-Leninist philosophy is nothing but utopia. It is fundamentally incorrect to talk about the death of socialism. The system founded on the desire for genuine democracy, equality, and social justice will live into the future. It is a different matter whether what occurred under Stalin, Brezhnev, and Ceausescu can be described as socialism. Socialism had to be forgotten under their rule; in essence it was banned. Over the last few years, since M.S. Gorbachev took the helm of leadership in the USSR, socialism has revealed itself afresh and has displayed its actual force. The Soviet leader launched a decisive struggle to augment the advantages of the socialist system, implemented a series of radical economic reforms, and took a resolute step toward Soviet society's democratization.

19 Jan Press Review on Current Problems, Issues

MB1901125690

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Health Services Standards 'Eroded'—"Mismanagement and political idiocy have joined forces to pitch Transvaal's public health services into a mess which has seen standards eroded to an intolerable level," remarks Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 19 January in a page 10 editorial. Now the Transvaal Provincial Association (TPA) is "compounding its blunders by arbitrarily and callously ordering 47 'general affairs' hospitals to reduce by 10 percent the number of patients treated." A "major overhaul" of hospital services administration is necessary.

BUSINESS DAY

Deregulatory Measures Details Necessary—A page 6 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 19 January refers to Trade and Industry Minister Kent Durr's promise of "sweeping" deregulatory measures affecting all areas of commerce and industry, saying his "openness is refreshing, but he will have to follow this up rapidly with details of who will be affected and how." "The best export incentive a South African industry could have remains the depreciating rand, and the best allocator of resources remains the market itself, with businessmen investing according to what they can make, buy or sell at a profit. It appears from what Durr is saying that, as government cuts expenditure, the myriad of subsidies and incentives over which his

department has presided will be reduced to a few which will have to be meticulously argued and carefully controlled. The crutches should also be temporary."

NEW NATION

Negotiation Talks Sow 'Division'—Johannesburg NEW NATION in English for 19-25 January states in its page 6 editorial there has been much talk and debate around the negotiation issue and the "struggle" which has resulted in "a degree of confusion," and "some of the confusion is consciously generated by apartheid apologists as a tactic of sowing confusion and division." "That today the apartheid regime is tottering to the grave and the Nationalists are even obliquely talking of negotiations is precisely because that balance is now in favour of the people." But NEW NATION believes that "even if the process of negotiations did begin it would be a fatal error for our people to demobilise any of their forces in all the terrains of struggle. We have to remember this because negotiations could be a protracted process subject to breakdown or even total collapse."

THE WEEKLY MAIL

Negotiations, Settlement Not 'Inevitable'—"A process in which black leadership's preconditions for negotiation are being met seems to be gathering speed and some believe it cannot be reversed," writes Steven Friedman in his "Worm's Eye" column on page 14 of Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English for 19-25 January. "But that does not yet mean that negotiations, let alone a settlement, are inevitable." "The government remains committed to thwarting majority rule and seems likely to remain so, regardless of the pressures it faces—the African National Congress [ANC], Pan-Africanist Congress and their allies remain committed to achieving it, regardless of the pressure they face to compromise. If both hold fast to these positions, the 1990's may see a far freer society, but one in which the stalemate over the central political issue remains."

VRYE WEEKBLAD

Mandela Must Play Unrestricted Political Role—"We believe the government was responsible for the new Mandela mania and now does not have much of a choice but to allow him to play a political role without restrictions," declares a page 20 editorial in Johannesburg VRYE WEEKBLAD in Afrikaans on 12 January. But "the government cannot expect Mandela to play a reconciliatory and negotiatory role, and that the ANC must sit around the table if they do not have the basic right to organize and meet just like the National Party and other political groups." "It will be bitterly dangerous if the hawks in the government further hinder the lifting of restrictions on the ANC and other organizations. It will be equally dangerous if the suspicions that the government is abusing Mandela's moderate, reconciliatory gestures and attitude to try to create a wedge between him and the other leaders of the ANC and the mass democratic movement, are proven true."

Restrictions on Political Groups 'Absurd'—A second editorial on the same page states: "Last week, the ANC said things during its anniversary that is of critical importance to all South Africans who want to know what is happening in the country and what lies ahead. Most of it cannot be quoted because most ANC members are 'listed'. Joe Slovo, the secretary general of the South African Communist Party [SACP], stated this week, in an interesting interview, his party's policy on socialism, multiparty democracy, the future role of the SACP, and the fall of socialism and communism in Eastern Europe. We are not allowed to know what Slovo said because he is 'listed'. It is totally absurd."

TRANSVALER

British Review Policy Toward ANC—A page 6 editorial in Johannesburg TRANSVALER in Afrikaans on 12 January says it is "the right of the British Government to review its policy toward the ANC which it has up until now regarded as being a terrorist organization and, therefore, could not meet with at senior level. As a matter of fact, the South African Government is doing the same. Hopefully Mrs Thatcher and others will carefully note the ANC's recent statement that it wants to intensify the violence campaign against South Africa." TRANSVALER urges the British Government to "use its influence to make the ANC aware what an obsolete ideology has done to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. In this way a valuable contribution can be made to create a democratic and new South Africa."

Transkei's Hoiomisa Must Change Attitude—"To put it mildly: our relations with Transkei are somewhat sour," states a page 6 editorial in Johannesburg TRANSVALER in Afrikaans on 15 January. Relations "can only deteriorate further if the military regime does not change its attitude." "Military dictators, especially those in Africa, were never too eager to renounce their entrenched powers; that is why there are so many of them. General Holomisa must not allow himself to be influenced by organizations who really aim to bedevil matters for the South African Government."

20 Jan Press Review

MB2001124590

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

Sisulu's Call Confirms 'Days of Terrorism Not Over'—"Mr Walter Sisulu, the released ANC [African National Congress] leader, who is regarded by Britain as a 'moderate' with whom it can hold talks, yesterday called for the political and military intensification of the struggle against apartheid," notes a page 6 editorial in Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 18 January. "Mr Sisulu's call confirms our view that the days of terrorism are not over." "It is as if, in the effort to portray the ANC as a moderate organisation, apologists want to blind themselves to the fact that the ANC is committed to the

'armed struggle' and that it intends to intensify it until it achieves its objectives." "Since the international community supports the ANC demands via the Harare Declaration, the government is under great pressure to meet most, if not all, of them. So far, it is the government that is making the concessions—not the ANC. And each concession the government makes is taken as evidence that the government is giving in to the ANC and its fronts. The answer for the government is not to stop its efforts to create a climate for negotiation. It is to insist that the 'armed struggle' be ended before it meets the ANC's major demands."

THE NATAL WITNESS

U.S. Congressman's Assessment Ignores 'Tangible Change'—A page 8 editorial in Pietermaritzburg THE NATAL WITNESS in English on 11 January reads: "U.S. Congressman Howard Wolpe is correct when he says, after a quick visit to South Africa, that the Government shows no readiness to accept a democracy based on universal and equal franchise. But this predictable judgment makes no allowance for the tangible change in climate since F.W. de Klerk took office last year. Mr Wolpe's response to Mr de Klerk's efforts is to call for tougher sanctions to force the pace of change. Mr Wolpe is right to conclude that sanctions, as a form of pressure, will produce some political reform. But the question he should ask himself is—at what cost in human hardship? One million extra unemployed? Two million, perhaps? The Congressman doesn't have to care as he jets back to his comfortable existence in Michigan, leaving organisations like Operation Hunger to deal with the consequences."

22 Jan Press Review

MB2201113890

[Editorial Report]

SUNDAY STAR

"We are a deeply divided, volatile society teetering on the brink of political disaster," declares the page 12 editorial in Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English on 21 January. A rebel cricket tour has the capacity to push South Africans "over the precipice into a well of violence." "We live in a country in which the majority have no vote and are largely denied the right to protest about it. We live in the iron grip of a state of emergency which allows police to disperse demonstrators with as much force as they like, declare the zone an unrest area and create 'official' truth if they so wish." Referring to the police break-up of demonstrators protesting the arrival of the rebel cricketers at Jan Smuts Airport SUNDAY STAR says: "Within the hour after the Jan Smuts clash, there were two police versions of events. First they claimed the demos were welcoming home ANC [African National Congress] leader Walter Sisulu from Lusaka. Reporters, who witnessed the scene, begged to differ. The police then said they had indeed charged anti-tour demos. Why they would prefer to break up a Sisulu demo

rather than a tour demon, remains obscure. The most charitable view of this turnabout is that confusion reigned. There are less charitable explanations." "Friday's fracas aside, the whole question of law and order has become a bad joke."

SUNDAY TIMES

Talks-About-Talks Begun—Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English on 21 January in a page 20 editorial says the meeting between F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela last year "confirmed that the proves of talks-about-talks has already started." "South Africa has entered uncharted waters. A huge responsibility rests upon all those at the helm of affairs—as well as on those on the outside making the waves—to ensure that it does not run aground."

THE STAR

Lack of Housing Increases Instability—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 22 January in its page 14 editorial refers to the housing backlog, saying "the problem is now overflowing into once-white flatlands, spreading slum conditions ever more intrusively into city life, diminishing quality of life and breeding crime." "Until the country's people can be accommodated satisfactorily in the areas where they live and work, instability will increase. The huge expense in overcoming the housing backlog must be seen as an investment in stability."

'Tough Stance' on Inflation—"Encouragingly the Reserve Bank Governor, Dr Chris Stals, continues to reinforce his tough stance on inflation, with his latest thrust being directed at the unwillingness of banks to cut back on lending," states a second editorial on the same page. "If the medicine given to date is not having the desired effect and if Dr Stals continues to see inflation as

public enemy number one—as well he should—then lending ceilings could be the only way out of the inflation morass."

BUSINESS DAY

Economic Reforms 'Promising'—No time is better to reform "than during a decline in the business cycle to institute macro-economic reforms, starting with monetary and fiscal restraint and tax neutrality, equity and simplicity," remarks the page 4 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 22 January. "Finance Minister du Plessis has made a promising start to the new economic evangelism by intimating that 'real cuts' in government spending will become apparent in the 1990/91 estimates of expenditure. At the same time, Governor Stals, who is privy to these things, has indicated that actual government spending in fiscal 1989/90 will probably not exceed budget limits. In that event, and taking into account grossly underestimated Exchequer receipts for the current year, the deficit before borrowing in fiscal 1991 should provide a sound basis to implement a greater measure of tax neutrality."

SOWETAN

Rebel Cricketers Perpetuate Apartheid 'Evil'—Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 22 January says in its page 6 editorial it has "no sympathy" for English rebel cricketer Mike Gatting, and his men. "The treatment of blacks at the airport when police fired tearsmoke at protestors should have convinced them that they are not welcome." "The cricket sides he will play are sides chosen on apartheid lines and by playing against them he is perpetuating this evil."

Blacks To "Rule, Save" Country—Aggrey Klaaste writes in his "On the Line" column on page 7: "I believe blacks will not only rule and save this country, but I believe we have that indescribable ethic that will make us rulers of the world. Mandela will start the ball rolling."

Angola

Army Chief of Staff Denies Chemical Weapons Use

MB2301065990 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0600 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] The FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] chief of General Staff yesterday denied reports that the Angolan Air Force bombed Mavinga Town or had ever used chemical weapons.

In a communique sent to ANGOP yesterday, the FAPLA chief of General Staff rejected certain international media reports that FAPA-DAA [People's Air Force of Angola-Air Defense] aircraft used chemical weapons to bomb Mavinga town, in Cuando Cubango Province, on 17 January.

The FAPLA chief of General Staff's communique concluded by saying that, yet again, UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] lies blatantly to divert the international community's attention from its terrorist activities against the Angolan people and its defeats at the hands of the Angolan National Army.

SWAPO's Nujoma Meets MPLA Officials in Luanda

MB2001213390 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] A SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] delegation led by Chairman Sam Nujoma has been in our country since this morning. This afternoon in Luanda, the delegation met with the Political Bureau of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party.

The talks were attended by Colonel Jose Maria, secretary of the Angolan president for defense and security affairs, and SWAPO's representative [words indistinct]. No details about the meeting were disclosed, although it is believed the Angolan side informed SWAPO about the country's political and military situation. The SWAPO delegation was likely to have reported on the situation in Namibia.

The international media have reported an alleged FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] military operation in southern Angola [words indistinct] would have affected northern Namibia. The Angolan Government denied this, saying FAPLA forces are only involved in operations against UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] within the country's borders.

Namibia's political situation is characterized by an impasse in the debate over the Namibian constitution. The deputies to the Constituent Assembly, who will meet again in Windhoek on Thursday [25 January], have not yet reached agreement on the draft proposals for the [words indistinct] constitution.

Chairman Sam Nujoma will be hosted at an official dinner this evening. He will give a news conference before he leaves Luanda tomorrow. The SWAPO leader [words indistinct] 21-gun salute at the 4 February Airport.

Discusses Cooperation, Other Issues

MB2201054490 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] In Luanda today, SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] President Sam Nujoma rejected South Africa's claim that an Angolan Air Force aircraft dropped a bomb on Namibian territory.

Mr Nujoma was speaking at a news conference with national and foreign journalists at Luanda's Futungo de Belas ward at the end of his 1-day visit to the People's Republic of Angola. Sam Nujoma said the explosion was caused by a bomb which failed to go off when it was dropped during SWAPO's liberation war.

Reviewing the issue of peace in Angola, SWAPO President Sam Nujoma said significant steps have been taken in that direction.

Turning to the issue of future cooperation between an independent Namibia and Angola, SWAPO President Sam Nujoma said the two countries can cooperate in many areas.

At the end of the news conference, Sam Nujoma was asked what he thought about the establishment of total democracy in Africa, to which he replied that Africa's peoples are naturally democratic.

Holds News Conference

MB2201205890 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1930 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Luanda, 22 Jan (ANGOP)—SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] President Sam Nujoma in Luanda on 21 January assured that Namibia "will be independent before the end of March."

Sam Nujoma spoke at a news conference at the end of his 24-hour visit to Angola.

Angolan head of state Jose Eduardo dos Santos attended the news conference.

Although there is a delay in the drafting of the constitution, Nujoma assured that "the United Nations Transition Assistance Group will not be asked to extend its stay in Namibia."

He said steps are being taken to create "a unified national army" to guarantee the country's sovereignty, making the continued presence of the UN force "unnecessary."

On Walvis Bay, which the South Africans do not want to let go, the SWAPO leader said this issue is being dealt with separately from the drafting of the constitution.

SWAPO holds 48 of the 72 seats in Namibia's Constituent Assembly.

During his stay in Angola, Nujoma and his delegation held official talks with the MPLA [Popular Movement of the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party, led by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Sam Nujoma returned to Windhoek yesterday morning.

Mozambique

Chissano Denies 'Bandit' Claims of 5 Feb Talks

MB2301110690 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] In an interview with the media on his return to Maputo from Lusaka, President Joaquim Chissano denied the armed bandit ringleader's claims that direct talks were scheduled for Nairobi on 5 February.

Namibia

Windhoek Radio Reports on Nujoma's Angolan Visit

MB2201084190 Windhoek Domestic Service in English
0515 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The president of SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], Mr Sam Nujoma, ended a 1-day visit to the Angolan capital, Luanda, yesterday [word indistinct] reports that political observers in Luanda say the (?military) situation on the border between Angola and Namibia, was thought to have been one of the topics discussed during the talks between Mr Nujoma and the Angolan leader, Mr Jose Eduardo Dos Santos.

Angolan Government forces are reported to be engaged in an offensive against the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebel movement near the Angolan border with Namibia. According to reports, UNITA rebels cross the border into Namibia regularly.

Zambia

ANC Refutes BBC Report on Armed Struggle

AB2001130190 Dakar PANA in English 1258 GMT
20 Jan 90

[Text] Lusaka, 20 Jan (PANA)—ANC [African National Congress] Director of International Relations Ihabo Mbeki described as "a lot of nonsense" a report by the BBC on Friday that ANC Acting President Alfred Nzo had said the liberation organization had "no capacity" to intensify the armed struggle and that is why it was negotiating with the South African regime.

In an interview with PANA Mbeki said what Nzo actually said was that the ANC had to escalate the armed struggle not only to have a sizeable army to be integrated into a future South Africa but also to continue to wage military action in the event there is no mutually agreed "suspension of arms."

An examination of a tape recording of the speech by Nzo show that the report by the BBC was in fact distorted.

Nzo told the opening ceremony of the ANC National Executive meeting on Thursday that the ANC had made the point that for there to be negotiations there had to be a "mutual suspension of arms" on the side of Pretoria and the ANC.

"While this has not happened the armed struggle must continue," he said.

He admitted however that "looking at our situation realistically we must admit that we do not have the capacity within our country to in fact intensify the armed struggle in any meaningful way. [no closing quotation mark as received]

He continued: "It can therefore be that the main military task that we should pay attention to is precisely the building up of that capacity within the country, both to be able to fight effectively—should the need arise—and to have sizeable forces at the moment when a new South Africa is born."

Zimbabwe

Mugabe Criticizes RSA, Israeli, U.S. Policies

MB1901175890 Johannesburg SABA in English
1417 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Harare, Jan 19, SABA—Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, in his annual address to foreign diplomats in Zimbabwe on Friday [19 January], attacked the policies of South Africa, Israel and the United States.

ZIANA national news agency reports more than 60 envoys, gathered at State House, heard Mr Mugabe say now was not the time for rapprochement with Pretoria, because of President F.W. de Klerk's "equivocating, procrastination and prevarication."

He said the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] election victory in Namibia justified the strategy of maintaining maximum international pressure on South Africa.

Mr Mugabe called on Mr de Klerk and the [Republic of South Africa] SA Government [RSA] to demonstrate their seriousness by declaring their acceptance of the conditions set out in the United Nations declaration on peaceful negotiations in South Africa adopted on December 15 last year.

On the Middle East, Mr Mugabe said:

"Israel continues its brutal murders against the brave resisting Palestinians.

"These cold-blooded massacres, as does Israel's refusal to accept the international call for a United Nations-organised Middle East conference, deserve the condemnation of the international community."

He reiterated Zimbabwe's condemnation of the United States' invasion of Panama and said it posed a serious threat to the entire Central American region and the neighbouring Caribbean.

On Eastern Europe, where several of Zimbabwe's former close Eastern bloc communist allies have been deposed, Mr Mugabe said whatever systems evolved, their governments should combine with the independent nations of southern Africa to continue the fight against apartheid.

Liberia

Doe Warns Military on Harassment of Citizens

AB2201225090 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2210 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] President Samuel Kanyon Doe has reassured citizens and residents of Liberia, including the country's partners in progress, of the government's continued commitment to ensuring their full protection. Commenting today on the recent incursions into Liberia by armed dissidents, the Liberian leader said it should have been obvious to the self-styled leader of the dissidents, Charles Taylor, that he could not have successfully launched an attack and overcome the people of this nation.

According to an Executive Mansion release issued today, President Doe indicated that the basic objective of Taylor and his group of cohorts was to create fear and insecurity in the minds of all citizens, residents, and partners in progress. He therefore appealed to the Liberian citizenry, including military and paramilitary forces, to desist from harassing peaceful citizens, noting they too are part of the struggle against these evil forces. The president then disclosed that a team of senior citizens are to be dispatched to Nimba County shortly to see how the government can assist those citizens in areas affected as a result of the armed incursion.

Meanwhile, President Doe has directed the commanding officer of the Nimba County detachment to ensure the citizens in and around Nimba are fully protected from the hands of the rebels and that the remaining armed dissidents, who are seeking refuge in the high forests of Nimba, should be pursued at all costs. The president also used the occasion to comfort Nimba citizens for the hardship they are facing as a result of the invasion and indicated that it was not the government's intention to cause trouble for any of its citizens, but to see that peace prevails in all parts of the country.

He then called on the citizens to give their unflinching support to the members of the Armed Forces of Liberia so that complete peace and stability can once more be restored. Every town in Nimba should stand ready to apprehend any member of the rebel group and have them turned in to government, while Nimba citizens in this government could proceed to their various towns and villages to appeal to the people to give support to the Armed Forces in an effort to restore peace, the president said.

In related news, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia, who expressed concern over reports of alleged harassment by military personnel, has instructed the minister of defense to proceed to Nimba County to warn his men against harassment of peaceful citizens and business people in the area. President Doe said any (?embracing) harassing peaceful and law-abiding citizens and residents, the maximum penalty in keeping with the uniform code of military justice would be invoked to serve as an example to others.

In a related development, the Liberian leader has directed that all executive members of the National Disaster Relief Commission, including cabinet ministers, will meet at the Monrovia City Hall tomorrow, Tuesday. All concerned are to be present at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Government Reacts to Handling of U.S. Donation

AB1901212490 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The Government of Liberia has expressed utter surprise and describes as completely inaccurate and misleading a newspaper report quoting an official of the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia as saying that the U.S. Government has allocated a sizeable amount of money to help rebuild the towns of Kahnple and Butuo that were destroyed in the recent rebel invasion of Liberia. The report, which was carried in yesterday's issue of the DAILY OBSERVER newspaper under the caption: U.S. Government Offers Humanitarian Assistance, also quoted the U.S. Embassy Government [as heard] as expressing dismay over the delay of the Liberian Government in responding to the disaster assistance offered by the United States to the Liberian Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a week ago.

A Foreign Ministry release issued today and quoted by the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY [LINA] said the Government of Liberia wishes to clarify that the report is far from the truth and coming from the U.S. Embassy official who the paper said preferred to remain anonymous although he would readily grant an exclusive interview to disclose this distorted information [words indistinct] intended to embarrass the Liberian Government.

Why should the government delay in responding to assistance offered by a friendly donor, especially during this critical period in the country, the release asked? It also said that the fact of the matter is that U.S. ambassador, Mr James K. Bishop contacted the Foreign Ministry and (?readily) expressed his government's willingness to provide disaster relief assistance in the amount of \$25,000 to the Liberian Government. But the offer of the United States Government was not without preconditions. In fact, they had requested that before the amount could be disbursed, the Liberian Government must first declare a state of disaster in the affected region and make a formal request for the assistance. We indicated that it would be more acceptable if a friendly donor, recognizing the need, could make an outright offer of assistance, the release continued, and added accordingly, when the ambassador subsequently called on the Foreign Ministry and made the offer without preconditions, it was readily accepted, the release said [words indistinct] there was a delay in its acceptance is therefore not only a misrepresentation of the facts, but appears to be a deliberate and calculated attempt to portray the Liberian Government as being insensitive to the (?suffering) plight of the victims of the recent rebel incursions into Liberia from the Ivory Coast.

Nigeria

Newly Named Military Junta Meets in Lagos 19 Jan

AB1901204290 Paris AFP in English 2032 GMT
19 Jan 90

[Text] Lagos, Jan 19 (AFP)—The Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC), Nigeria's highest decision-making body, met here Friday for the first time since a major reshuffle announced by President Ibrahim Babangida revealing its new membership.

The changes in the AFRC accompanied a Cabinet reshuffle, which saw former Defence Minister General Domkat Bali offered the Internal Affairs portfolio which he rejected as a "personal humiliation".

The proposed move for Gen. Bali, who was also number three in the ruling hierarchy and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, roused the wrath of many of his fellow Christians, who saw the changes as a consolidation of Islamic authority in Nigeria by Gen. Babangida.

The popular Gen. Bali, Nigeria's longest-serving senior officer, heads a Plateau State pressure group known as the 'Langtang Mafia', representing a minority ethnic interest. The only 'Mafia' member to survive Gen. Babangida's clean sweep in the AFRC was General Joshua Dogonyarao.

The president has dismissed claims of religious bias, promoting a secular image of the government which has promised to restore civilian rule by October 1992. But he was forced to call off an important visit to Washington in view of the unrest, which was reflected within parts of the armed forces.

The newly constituted AFRC already cut from 28 members to 19 in February last year, also lost vice-admiral Patrick Koshoni, air vice-marshal Ibrahim Alfa, and Muhammadu Gambo, former heads of the Navy, Air Force and Police respectively.

The former two could have retained their posts, observers said, but they added that Gen. Babangida appeared otherwise to have taken steps to dispel bitterness in the armed forces in a carefully organized "rotation" of posts.

Others to go were Vice-Admiral Pesi, ex-commander of the Western Naval Command, Lagos, and Major General Sani Sami, former commander of the First Mechanised Infantry Division.

Newcomers to the junta are the former minister of external affairs, General Ike Nwachukwu, now commander of the 1st Mechanised Infantry Division at Kaduna in the north, Gen. Aliyu Mohammed, commander of the 2nd Mechanised Infantry Division at Ibadan in the west, Air Vice-Marshal Anthony Okpere, commander of the Tactical Air Command at Makurdi (central-north) and Aliyu Ibrahim Attah, the new inspector-general of police.

The reshuffled BFRC met Friday for about one-and-a-half hours and discussed matters that were outstanding last year, President Babangida said, without giving further details.

The new Nigerian AFRC meeting on Friday had the following members:

1. General Ibrahim Babandia, President
2. Vice-Admiral Augustus Aikhomu, chief of General Staff
3. General Sani Abacha, chief of Army General Staff and of the Joint Staff
4. Rear-Admiral Murtala Nyako, chief of Naval General Staff
5. Air Marshal Nuraini Yusuff, chief of Air Force General Staff
6. Inspector-General Aliyu Attah, chief of police
7. General Abdullahi Mamman, commander of the National War School
8. Air Vice-Marshal Anthony Okpere, chief of Air Force Tactical Command (Makurdi)
9. General Ike Nwachukwu, commander of the 1st Mechanised Infantry Division (Kaduna)
10. General Salihu Ibrahim, commander of the 82nd Division (strike troops)
11. General Garba Duba, commander of the military activity
12. General Aliyu Mohammed, commander of the 2nd Mechanised Infantry Division (Ibadan)
13. General Oladipo Diya, commander of the 3rd Armoured Division
14. General Joshua Dogonyaro, chief officer in the Army General Staff
15. General Yohanna Kure, quartermaster-general in the Army General Staff
16. General Abdul Salam Abubakar, commander of the National Infantry School (Zaria)
17. Air Vice-Marshal Clement Ugah, director of operations in the Air Force General Staff
18. Rear-Admiral Chijioke Kaja, quartermaster-general in the Naval General Staff
19. Rear-Admiral Babatunde Elegbede, chief of the Western Naval Command.

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